

# NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1906.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I am informed that the number of occupied houses in the district in 1906 was about the same as in previous years, and we, therefore, infer that the population is about the same. This indication is not sufficiently precise to be depended upon altogether, but it is the best guide we have until the next census, when, I am afraid, some of our figures, which are getting too good to be true, may have to be corrected, as was the case at the last census. Other factors, such as the state of trade, and demand for labour, do not help us much, because, while these have improved here a little, they have improved much more in other districts.

There are many empty houses in each township, and only one new house has been built during the year; consequently there is abundant house accommodation. Generally the houses are well and substantially built; but it may be useful again to remind owners and tenants of the large number of houses that are built into the ground, and are both dark and damp, conditions unfavourable to health generally, but especially favourable to Rheumatism and Phthisis, which, in their ultimate effects, are the most fatal diseases in the district.

There is not much over-crowding, but sometimes the largest families are obliged to live in the smallest houses, many of which have only one bedroom, and the awkwardness of such meagre accommodation is often obviated by using the convenient, but unhealthy, turn-up bed in the living-room.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

All plans of new buildings are submitted to the Council.

*Scavenging, Disposal of Excrement and House Refuse.*—Covered ash privies are generally used, but there are a few pail-closets and water-closets. If new houses should be built, I hope the Council will insist on the provision of water-closets in them. The privies are emptied by contractors, by the Council's own staff, and by owners and occupiers. A few complaints of neglect to empty privies have reached me, but I have always found that the complainants have not helped the department by giving timely notice, which they might easily do.

This important sanitary work requires careful and constant supervision to prevent nuisance, because it is difficult to arrange any self-acting scheme adapted at once to the large villages, small hamlets, and scattered houses, which are comprised in the district.

Two new privies have been built and two rebuilt during the year.

*Sewage.*—All the populous parts of the district are systematically sewered, but it seems that some of the outlets discharge into the river, because they are not yet coupled to the main leading to the sewage disposal works.

320 yards of 6in. and 9in. pipes have been laid in extension of the main sewage scheme.

Hade Edge and Flowery Field still need proper sewers. Complaints of the escape of sewer gas were made during the summer, arising from short lengths of sewers, which seem to have been laid without sufficient fall. Air-shafts have been erected at the worst places, and the chimney of an unoccupied mill has been connected with the main sewer.

Some improvement may be expected when all the houses use the Council's water; but frequent flushing may also be necessary.

*Water Supply.*—All the populous parts of the district have a plentiful supply of good water. I am sorry the Council have not yet solved the difficulty of supplying Victoria. The question is still under consideration, and correspondence is being carried on with the owners of suggested sources. But every scheme that has been proposed has been found to be far too costly for the small amount of revenue that could be expected.

About 100 yards of extensions to the water mains have been made during the year.

At Scholes and Scholes Moor there are still 40 houses, and at Hepworth 17 houses, unconnected with the water mains. At both places the sub-soil is very porous, and the natural supplies are liable to contamination, indeed, some sunken wells have, in the past, been found to be acting simply as cesspools. I, therefore, advise the Council to insist on their water being put into these houses. Very few houses in the district have baths, and they are much needed, owing to the number of people employed in dirty occupations. I am glad to learn that the Council does not charge extra for baths and water-closets.

*Lodging Houses, etc.*—There are no Common Lodging Houses, nor Canal Boats, nor Offensive Trades in the district.

*Slaughter Houses.*—There are only two Slaughter Houses. They are regularly inspected, and are fairly well kept.

*Cowsheds.*—The Council have decided to frame regulations in accordance with the "Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order,"





which are to come into effect on the 1st of April next. I hope the owners and occupiers will study this question, and be prepared to co-operate with your officials, who, I am sure, desire to help, and not to harass, a very important industry.

*Workshops.*—A register of Workshops is kept. There are 27 premises which come within the care of the local authority; 56 persons are employed, giving an average of only a little more than two persons for each workshop; indeed, several are domestic workshops, so there is no over-crowding.

The Tailors' and Dressmakers' premises are satisfactory in every way.

The Joiners' and Blacksmiths' are fairly well kept, considering the nature of the work.

Some of the Cloggers do not keep their places clean. One complained of the number of idlers who spent their time with him, and hindered him. If he keeps a public house, he ought to keep it clean. Another said he swept his place every week, whether it wanted it or not.

The only Bakehouse I know of is suitable in construction and fairly well kept.

There are no outworkers.

*Nuisances.*—The Sanitary Inspector reports that he had six nuisances under consideration at the end of 1905; 22 others were discovered or reported during the year, and 10 were still in hand at the close of 1906.

*Disinfection, etc.*—The district adopted Notification in 1896. It is comprised in the area of the Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital Board, who have made excellent provision at Meltham for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Small-Pox. This year twenty-four cases of Scarlet and one of Enteric Fever were sent to the hospital from this district. I believe the Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria wards have, at times, been quite full. Infected premises are stoved with the formalin lamp, and disinfectants are distributed free.

*Vital Statistics.*—I. *Births.*—During the year the births of 120 infants were registered, making a birth-rate of 25·9 per thousand persons living within the district, per annum; which is a low rate. The average rate for the last ten years was 28·6 per 1,000; that for Fulstone was 26·6, for Hepworth 31·5, and for Scholes 21·2. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1906 was 27·0 per 1,000, which was again the lowest on record.

The number of deaths was 59, so that there were more than twice as many births as deaths, and the excess of births over deaths was 61, which ought to be the natural increase of population, but it measures the number of human beings annually exported out of the district, supposing the population to be stationary. I consider this the most important point in my report, because it epitomises the general condition of the district.

II. *Deaths.*—The deaths of 56 persons were registered as having died within the district, including a stranger who died on the road; but we have also to include three persons belonging

to the district who died at Deanhouse Workhouse, making a total of 59, and a death-rate of 12·7 per 1,000 per annum, which is the lowest rate since the district was formed. The average rate for New Mill for the last ten years is 15·9. The rate for England and Wales for 1906 was 15·4. The death-rate for New Mill, therefore, was 2·7 per thousand less than that for the whole country, in a very healthy year; but, as I have said, these figures may have to be slightly corrected after next census.

The number of deaths, and the death-rate for each township were as follows:—

	No.	Rate for 1906.
Fulstone	... 33	... 16·2 per 1,000 per annum.
Hepworth	... 10	... 9·5       "       "
Scholes	... 16	... 10·3       "       "
The average rate is:—Fulstone 16·0, Hepworth 14·6, Scholes 14·5.		

*Infantile Mortality.*—Eight infants died before reaching the age of twelve months, making an Infantile Mortality rate of 66·6 per 1,000 births, which is an exceedingly low rate. The average rate for the past ten years was 124·1. The rate for England and Wales for 1906 was 133 per thousand births.

One infant died of measles, two probably died from improper feeding, the rest from immaturity or debility at birth. This speaks well for the mothers, who nearly always give the child the breast when possible, and I very seldom hear of cases where young children are put out to nurse while the mother goes to work.

III. *Disease.*—Particulars of the nature and amount of disease prevalent in the district are obtained from the death registration, the notification of infectious diseases, and, in respect to non-notifiable diseases, from the school authorities, my own observation, and such other information as I can obtain.

(a) The certified causes of the 59 deaths are enumerated in Table IV. From it we learn that the zymotic death-rate, i.e., that due to the seven most common infectious diseases, was ·4, which was very low, and caused entirely by two deaths from measles. On the other hand, the death-rates from Phthisis 1·29, other Tubercular Diseases ·6, and Heart Disease 2·16, were high. There were three cases of sudden death on which inquests were held, and one case of accidental drowning of a child. There was no suicide last year.

(b) *Notifications.*—I received 39 certificates, referring to

- 1 case of Diphtheria.
- 5 cases of Erysipelas.
- 32 cases of Scarlet Fever.
- 1 case of Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

*Scarlet Fever.*—In August, just when the schools were re-opening after the holidays, four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in Hepworth Village. They were all promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital, and no further cases have been notified in Hepworth. This is an illustration of the great utility of an Isolation Hospital in promptly checking an epidemic at the beginning.



At the end of September a fresh epidemic, quite independent of the Hepworth outbreak, began with two adults living at Belgreave, but working outside the district. Then children of school age and young infants in New Mill Village were notified almost daily throughout the month of October. After an interval of three weeks it began again in an adult working at Wooldale, and finally ceased on November 30th. The number of cases was 25 in Fulstone, and two in Scholes. These two were scholars attending the Wooldale School.

Twenty patients were sent to the Isolation Hospital, and seven were treated at home.

Most of the patients were children of school age, and the National School at Sudehill probably became a centre of infection, and both it and the Infant School were closed for a month. There were also several young infants under school age. In most cases the infection was probably conveyed by mild, unrecognised or concealed cases. The known cases also were mostly mild, and I am glad to say there was not a single death.

The reasons why isolation was not so successful at New Mill as at Hepworth were:—The probable presence of unrecognised cases; the occurrence of epidemics in the neighbouring districts at the same time; the prob-

ability that what appeared to be one epidemic was really a series arising from several separate invasions; and, lastly, the presence in New Mill of a population very susceptible to Scarlet Fever, owing to the circumstance that there had not been a serious epidemic there for very many years.

(c) Of infectious diseases which are not notifiable only measles was prevalent.

In July and August there was a very severe epidemic of measles, affecting the whole district, but more especially Jackson Bridge, Hepworth, The Law, and Hade Edge. Both the schools at Hepworth and the Infant School at New Mill were closed for a time.

It would be better if the infant classes in all schools could be promptly closed at the beginning of an outbreak. The elder scholars are not nearly so subject to measles as infants are, and their education in school need not be interfered with on this account.

Two infants died of measles.

Finally, it appears that there has been a great deal of infectious disease during the past year, but, in other respects, at least, so far as it can be measured by actual returns, the health of the district has been good.

*ALBERT THORP,*

Medical Officer of Health for New Mill  
(near Huddersfield).

Undercliffe,  
Holmfirth,  
Feb. 27, 1907.





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TABLE I.  
New Mill Urban District.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimat- ed to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Non- residents register- ed in Public Institu- tions in the district.	Deaths of Resid'nts regist'r'd in Public Institu- tions beyond the district.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		No.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.				No.	Rate.*
				No.	Rate per 1,000 Births regist'r'd	No.	Rate.*				
1896	4624	132	28·5	16	121·2	85	18·3	1	1	85	18·3
1897	4624	161	34·8	25	155·3	91	19·6			91	19·6
1898	4624	136	29·4	14	102·9	67	14·4		1	68	14·7
1899	4624	136	29·4	20	147·0	73	15·7			73	15·7
1900	4624	139	30·0	15	107·9	77	16·6	1	2	78	16·8
1901	4624	120	25·9	17	141·6	63	13·6		7	70	15·1
1902	4656	124	26·6	17	137·1	69	14·8		3	72	15·4
1903	4624	134	28·9	15	111·9	66	14·2		1	67	14·4
1904	4624	120	25·9	11	91·6	74	16·0		1	75	16·2
1905	4624	124	26·8	16	129·0	56	12·1		6	62	13·4
Averages for years 1896-1905.	4627	132·6	28·6	16·6	124·5	72·1	15·5			74·1	15·9
1906	4624	120	25·9	8	66·6	56	12·1		3	59	12·7

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)... .. } 6215

Total population at all ages ... .. 4624  
Number of inhabited houses ... .. 1014  
Average number of persons per house ... .. 4·5

} At Census of 1901.





TABLE II.

New Mill Urban District.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1906 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		WHOLE DISTRICT.				FULSTONE.				HEPWORTH.				SCHOLDS.			
YEAR.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	
1896.....	4624	132	85	16													
1897.....	4624	161	91	25													
1898.....	4624	136	68	14													
1899 .....	4624	136	73	20													
1900.....	4624	139	78	15	2026		37	7	1047		15	5	1551		26	3	
1901.....	4624	120	70	17	2026	44	33	8	1047	34	15	4	1551	42	22	5	
1902.....	4624	124	72	17	2046	60	30	8	1051	29	17	6	1559	35	25	3	
1903.....	4624	134	67	15	2026	55	31	9	1047	31	13	2	1551	48	23	4	
1904.....	4624	120	75	11	2026	55	31	3	1047	28	22	6	1551	37	22	2	
1905.....	4024	124	62	16	2026	66	34	10	1047	29	10	3	1551	29	18	3	
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905.	4627	132.6	74.1	16.6	2029	56	32.6	7.5	1047	30.2	15.3	4.3	1552.3	38.2	22.6	3.3	
1906.....	4624	120	59	8	2026	54	33	5	1047	33	10	3	1551	33	16	Nil.	



TABLE III.

New Mill Urban District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Fulstone.	Hepworth.	Scholes.	Fulstone.	Hepworth.	Scholes.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.						
DIPHThERIA .....	1			1			1					
ERYSIPELAS. ....	5				4	1	2	1	2			
SCARLET FEVER. ....	32		10	18	1	3	25	5	2	20	4	
ENTERIC FEVER. ....	1					1			1			1
Totals.....	39		10	19	1	8	28	6	5	20	4	1





TABLE IV.  
New Mill Urban District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES. (AT ALL AGES.)			
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	Fulstone.	Hepworth.	Scholes	Deanhouse Workhouse
Measles. ....	2	1	1					1	1		
Epidemic Influenza .....	1				1			1			
Diarrhœa . ....	2	2						1	1		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	6			1	3	2		3	2	1	
Other Tubercular Diseases .....	3		3					1		2	
Cancer, Malignant Disease.....	2					2		1	1		
Bronchitis .....	6					2	4	2	1	3	(1)
Pneumonia.....	4			3		1		3		1	
Premature Birth. ....	2	2						2			
Diseases and Accidents of } Parturition }	1					1		1			
Heart Diseases .....	10	1				5	4	2	3	5	
Accidents . ....	1		1							1	
All other causes . ....	19	2			1	7	9	15	1	3	(2)
All causes .....	59	8	5	4	5	20	17	33	10	16	







NEW MILL<sup>y</sup>  
URBAN DISTRICT

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

= = of health

FOR THE YEAR

1906.

